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Kentucky Warbler

Volume I.

Bowling Green, Ky., Jan. 1925.

Number 1

HOWDY!—This is the first number of a quarterly bulletin which the officers of The Kentucky Ornithological Society have projected. It will be the purpose of this bulletin to record the proceedings of The Kentucky Ornithological Society, publish notes and news of interest to the society, gather information about the various activities of our members, publish field notes, and record whatever papers and contributions from our society seem fitted to the scope of this bulletin. Whenever you see something of interest in birdland, when you know of some outstanding activity of our members, when you feel that your observations should be recorded for the benefit of ornithological studies, send a note to the Secretary, who at present is acting as Editor.

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FALL MEETING.—The Kentucky Ornithological Society was to hold its fall meeting at Bowling Green, at the Western Teachers College, but the officers decided to unite with The Wilson Ornithological Society, The Inland Bird Banding Association, and The Tennessee Ornithological Society in their great annual meeting at Nashville, Tennessee, November 28-30, 1924. Our President, Dr. L. Otley Pindar, was to have talked on "The Permanent Mating of Birds" but was unable to attend the meeting on account of serious illness. Our Secretary, Gordon Wilson, gave a paper on "A Three-day Canoe Trip on Barren River," a member of our Council, Miss Emilie Yunker, talked on "The School Children and the Birds," and Mr. G. D. Hibbs, Cox's Creek, sent to be read a paper on "Bird Gardening."

At the business session it was decided that the officers of The Kentucky Ornithological Society should write personal letters to the Governor of Kentucky urging him to set aside a day in early spring for the observance of Arbor and Bird Day. Two sessions were planned for the spring meeting at the time of the annual K. E. A. meeting: one in the evening, at which Mr. Albert F. Ganier, Nashville, Tennessee, President of The Wilson Ornithological Club, has been asked to give an illustrated lecture; the other a day session.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUSES.—For twenty-five years the Audubon Societies have been taking bird censuses every Christmas. These censuses are published every year in January-February "Bird Lore." For the past seven years the Secretary has taken such a census. It would be a fine thing if a large number of our members would take such a census annually, the results to be published in this bulletin. Records of sufficient prominence could be sent to "Bird Lore." Begin now to plan a census for next Christmas.

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OUR MEMBERS.—A new honorary member of the K. O. S. is Miss Harriet Audubon, of Louisville, a grand-daughter of the great naturalist.

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B. C. Bacon, our Vice-President, is preparing a check-list of all Kentucky birds. We hope it may be published this year in a number of "The Kentucky Warbler."

Ben J. Blincoe, Dayton, Ohio, formerly of Bardstown, was recently re-elected Treasurer of the Wilson Ornithological Club; Gordon Wilson was re-elected Secretary of the same club.

William A. Brock, one of our youngest members of the K. O. S., reports that the Bronzed Grackle remained in Louisville practically all the winter.

Haward Brown, who took his B. S. degree at the Western Kentucky Teachers College last June, is principal of the high school at Livermore, Kentucky.

Prof W. D. Funkhouser, of Kentucky University has recently issued a little folder giving an account of the Zoological Field Laboratory established last spring in Breathitt County by Kentucky University. Dr. Funkhouser has agreed to talk on this reserve at our spring meeting.

Miss Lottie Gwaltney will graduate from the Louisville Normal School next June.

Mrs. Charles F. Huhlein sailed January 20, with her husband and her daughter, on a trip around the world. The party will return about the end of June.

Professor L. Y. Lancaster, of the Western Teachers College, has done some successful banding of Carolina Chickadees and Southern Downy Woodpeckers this winter.

Mrs. Merit O'Neal is planning a big celebration of Bird and Arbor Day in the Louisville Schools. Mr. Carl D. Herdman of Bowling Green, who has done so much with bird-gardening, has been asked to entertain the children on that occasion.

Dr. L. Otley Pindar, who was quite ill late in the fall, is very much improved now and is planning enthusiastically for the spring meeting.

Mrs. Frank M. Thomas, one of the most enthusiastic members, died on October 20, 1924.

Mr. W. M. Walker, Jr., is finishing his A. M. degree this year at George Peabody College for Teachers, at Nashville, Tennessee.

The Reverend William A. Worthington, president of Annville Institute, Annville, Jackson County, is a very enthusiastic bird student. He reports some active study and banding going on at his school. He has also promised to make a talk at our annual spring meeting on his study of mountain birds.

Miss Emilie Yunker, director of school gardens at Louisville, is to speak before several of the Chicago schools this month. On February 21 she is to address the National School Gardens Association at Cincinnati, Ohio.

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FIELD NOTES.—On October 28, 1924, I saw approximately 150 Turkey Buzzards circling over a field about two miles south of Bowling Green. On November 17, 1924, I saw about the same number of the same species not far from the same place. It is not usual for

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me to see more than a dozen Turkey Buzzards at any one time, especially in the late fall or early winter.

In late November, 1924, Mr. Carl D. Herdman called my attention to the fact that some Pine Siskins were roosting in Central Park, in the very heart of our town. I have visited the roost often since then, finding them about 1000-1500 in number. Several bird students have visited the roost. Professor Lancaster and I tried to band some of them, using a long-handled net, but we found them too high up to reach, even with the additional aid of a tall step-ladder.

Professor Lancaster and I recorded a rare winter bird on our Christmas census, taken December 26—a Wilson's Snipe.

GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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I am in the habit of taking outings on Drake's Creek and Barren River, but on only one occasion have I ever seen more than one Pied-billed Grebe. On November 22, 1924, I saw ten of this species in a ten-mile trip. Not one of them took to the wing when approached but quietly submerged while the boat was passing. One miscalculated the time required for us to pass and arose alongside the boat not more than five feet away.

It is common to see crows fighting hawks or owls, but on November 11, 1924, I saw a half dozen crows making fight on two Mallards. The ducks were swimming and did not seem to mind the attack of the crows.

Rare Winter Birds.—On December 26, 1924, I saw the Red-headed Woodpecker, the Cowbird, and the Marsh Hawk; on January 3, the Bronzed Grackle and the Belted Kingfisher. The Marsh Hawk is to be seen every winter but is exceedingly rare.

On June 3, 1924, I saw a dozen or fifteen strange water birds passing from one pond to another. They flew directly over me and were studied at close range. Careful notes were taken at the time and shown to Professor Gordon Wilson, who helped me to identify the birds as the Black-bellied Plover. This is the first record of this species for our territory.

On January 12, 1925, I banded a Southern Downy Woodpecker. While I was attaching the band, it gave its usual S. O. S. call, to which a dozen or more English Sparrows responded by threatening me with their beaks. It struck me as odd that two species otherwise hostile should reverse the situation when trouble was in sight.

L. Y. LANCASTER, Bowling Green

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Last spring (1924), while Dr. L. Otley Pindar was visiting me at my home at Madisonville, we made a wonderful trip to Hummingbird Grove, so named by my companion because of the large number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds we saw there. The grove is located two miles west of Madisonville, on the Rose Creek Road. We saw more than thirty Ruby Throats while we were there and made a great many pictures. The center of Hummingbird activity was a cluster of jewel weed at one end of the grove. The birds were very friendly and

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lighted even on the string fastened to the shutter. Dr. Pindar, though experienced in all phases of ornithology, pronounced the experience one of the greatest he has ever had.

B. C. BACON, Madisonville.

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THE SPRING MEETING.—Full announcement will be made in the April number of the annual meeting of The K. O. S. at Louisville. The following things can be announced with certainty already:

1. An illustrated lecture on Reelfoot Lake, A. F. Ganier, Nashville.
2. The Raptiores of Kentucky, B. C. Bacon, Madisonville.
3. The University of Kentucky Field Laboratory in the Mountains, Professor W. D. Funkhouser, Lexington.
4. Birds of My Farm, G. D. Hibbs, Cox's Creek.
5. My Experience with Birds at My School, Reverend William A. Worthington, Annville.
6. Dramatiization of Longfellow's "Birds of Killingworth" by the pupils of the I. N. Bloom School, under the direction of Miss Adelaide Seekamp, principal.

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NEW MEMBERS.—The following new members have been elected since the publication of the annual list in "The Wilson Bulletin" for September, 1924: Miss Harriet Audubon, William A. Brock, Lillian Gradman, Anne Grunder, Alma Bache Hagman, John E. Huhn, Amelia Layer, Alice Frances Morat, Lucille Morat, Lorene Schrieck, W. M. Walker, Jr., Mrs. L. H. Wood, Reverend William A. Worthington.

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The day this little bulletin was mailed, February 11, the Secretary banded four Blue Jays.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April, 1923

President ----- Dr. L. Otley Pindar, Versailles
Vice-President ----- B. C. Bacon, Madisonville
Secretary-Treasurer ----- Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green
Meets annually in the spring during the week of The Kentucky Educational Association; in the fall at some Kentucky college.

Dues for K. O. S. membership: local or state members 50c annually; affiliate, \$2.00.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the Secretary.